

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 17, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-15, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garnett, et al. in view of Stiffler, et al. and further in view of Tavallaci, et al. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 17 recite in general the ability to connect a second processing device to a bus prior to disconnecting from the bus a first processing device having access thereto while other processing devices are not connected to the bus. By contrast, the Garnett, et al. patent does not provide any disclosure of an ability to have two processing devices briefly connected to a bus at the same time. The Examiner readily admits that the Garnett, et al. patent fails to disclose an ability to connect one of a plurality of processing devices to a bus prior to disconnecting another one of the plurality of processing devices from the bus. To offset the deficiencies of the Garnett, et al. patent, the Examiner cites the Stiffler, et al. patent for its pre-grant bus access request technique. However, all of the processing elements in the Stiffler, et al. patent are connected to the bus and a bus access request is pre-granted for a particular processing element to inform the particular processing element that it is next to have access to the bus once it becomes available after being used by the previously granted processing element. There is no connecting and disconnecting of processing elements to and from the bus within the Stiffler, et al. patent. Before connecting to the bus, the next in line processing element of the Stiffler, et al. patent monitors the bus control lines to

determine when the bus is actually available. The processing element of the Stiffler, et al. patent only provides signals on the bus after determining that the bus is available. Thus, the structure that would result from placing the pre-grant bus access request technique of the Stiffler, et al. patent, where all processing elements are connected to the bus and a particular processing element is merely informed that it is next in line to have access to a bus, into the bridge system of the Garnett, et al. patent, where one processing device is not connected to the bus prior to disconnecting another processing device from the bus, would still lack an ability to connect a second processing device to a bus prior to disconnecting from the bus a first processing device having access thereto while other processing devices remain disconnected from the bus as required by the claimed invention. Moreover, the Garnett, et al. and Stiffler, et al. patents are incompatible with each other as the Garnett, et al. patent does not allow more than one processing device to be connected to the bus while the Stiffler, et al. patent discloses having all processing elements connected to the bus. The Tavallaci, et al. patent is merely cited for the devices being processors and does not add any additional disclosure combinable with either the Garnett, et al. or Stiffler, et al. patents related to connecting processors to a bus. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-15, and 17-19 are not anticipated by the Garnett, et al. patent.

Claims 3, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garnett, et al. in view of Stiffler, et al. and further in view of PCI Local Bus Specification. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 17 from which Claims 3, 16, and 20 depend have been shown above to be patentably distinct from the proposed Garnett, et al. -

Stiffler, et al. combination. Moreover, the PCI Local Bus Specification does not include any additional material combinable with the either the Garnett, et al. or Stiffler, et al. patents that would be material to patentability of the claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3, 16, and 20 are patentably distinct from the proposed Garnett, et al. - Stiffler, et al. - PCI Local Bus Specification.

CONCLUSION

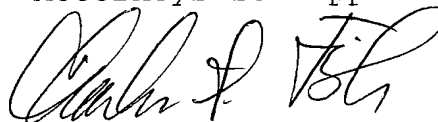
Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment associated with this Application to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Fish', is written over the printed name.

Charles S. Fish

Reg. No. 35,870

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